

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	25 January 2006 (25.01.2006)
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Applicant's or agent's file reference 05FLWW117	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
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International application No. PCT/KR 2005/003583	International filing date (day/month/year) 26 October 2005 (26.10.2005)	Priority Date (day/month/year) 26 October 2004 (26.10.2004)
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International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC D06F 58/28 (2006.01)i
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Applicant LG ELECTRONICS INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Cont. No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Cont. No. II Priority
- ☐ Cont. No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Cont. No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Cont. No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Cont. No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Cont. No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Cont. No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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International application No.
PCT/KR 2005/003583

Continuation No. I

Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed.

Continuation No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 11, 14, 15	YES
	Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 16	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 11, 14, 15	YES
	Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 16	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-16	YES
	Claims ----	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document US 5 649 372 A includes a drying apparatus where a humidity sensor 36 is located in the exhaust outlet 9 of the drying chamber 1. FIGS. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 illustrate the programming steps executed by electronic controller 13. The start command is entered through the keyboard 29 of the electronic controller. The blower 11 and motor 25 are activated in step 52 to begin the drying process. The display 31 displays a material type entered through keyboard 29 being dried within the drying chamber 1. A relative humidity is determined. During the time the relative humidity monitored by the sensor 36 is continuously measured. Once the final relative humidity within the drying chamber 1 has been found to equal the final relative humidity RH LO in decision block 81, heating is discontinued in step 86 and a cool down time cycle for the dryer is entered. As shown by the figures the subject-matters of claims 1-3, 5-10, 12, 13, 16 are not new and do not involve an inventive step.

Document EP 0 481 442 A2 A shows a washing/drying machine and a method of controlling the same with a control panel 6 having various control keys and a program display 7. A humidity sensor 67 is placed inside the condenser. Therefore the subject-matters of claims 1, 3, 4 are not new and do not involve an inventive step.

Document US 2004/0168344 A1 embodies a laundry drier and a control method thereof by which the heater is driven in a step S401 for a predetermined time (t1). While the heater is thus driven, a level of moisture is sensed in a step S403, which is converted into a voltage and is stored in the memory 800 in a step S404. The stored voltage value is compared to a

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predetermined value, in a step S405. If the stored voltage value reaches or exceeds the predetermined value, it is determined that the drying procedure is completed and heating is stopped in a step S406. On the other hand, if after the predetermined time the stored voltage value is still less than the predetermined value, it is determined that the drying procedure may be incomplete. Accordingly, in steps S407, S408, and S409, a new voltage value corresponding to a subsequent (t_2) sensing of moisture is obtained for further comparison in a step S410. Therefore the subject-matters of claims 1, 7, 8 are not new and do not involve an inventive step.

Document US 2005/0091876 A1 was published prior to the filing date but later than the priority date claimed. FIG. 2 illustrates a dryer control method in which the controller 103 periodically detects the output voltage of the moisture sensor 102 through steps S202 and S203, to determine whether the output voltage reaches the first predetermined voltage (V_1), at which time the timer 101 is begun. Then, through steps S204 and S205, the time taken for the output voltage of the moisture sensor 102 to reach the second predetermined voltage (V_2) is measured. Upon reaching the second predetermined voltage the measured time ΔT can be known. The drying time t is computed by $t = C_1 + C_2 \cdot \Delta T$, where C_1 is a constant and C_2 is a constant corresponding to the selected dryness level per laundry type, in a step S206. The drying operation is completed in a step S207 by continuing to drive the drying unit 105 until the computed time expires. If the priority document does not cover the features of claims 1, 2, 7-10, 12, 16 the subject-matters of these claims are not new considering document US 2005/0091876 A1.